

MS5 JOSEPH A. LAMERIE
Joseph A. Lamerie Oliver

Joseph A. Lamerie, was born December 1, 1850, at Montreal, Canada, son of Alexander and Catharine Amell, of $\frac{3}{4}$ French Canadian and one fourth Winnebago Indian blood, is one of the most prominent characters of Thurston county. The first nine years of his life were spent on his white father's farm near Madison, Wisconsin; from whence his parents then rejoined the Winnebago tribe at Blue Earth, Minn., and with those people he grew up from the humbler walks to their highest gifts of office, and has always shared among them his business prosperity and rendered to them his loyal service.

At the age of 15 he witnessed the last occasion of warlike feud and skirmish his people engaged in. For two years parties of the Winnebagoes have stolen away from their later reservation in Dakota and by canoes drifted down the Missouri river to their present abode in this county. His parents with their family were of the last party that came. On canoeing past the bluffs opposite Yankton Agency a party of Sioux fired from the bluffs on the flotilla killing two of the Winnebagoes, who numbered about 75 people, men, women and children.

Since 1865 he has continuously resided here. In 1874 he married a Winnebago lady, Florence Monigar. To this union 8 children were born, all apt and keen, and some of them well educated and cultured by advanced schooling.

His first preferment to office was by his tribe, being elected a councilman and official interpreter in the summer of 1893, holding the former office 3 years, and the latter 2 years. In the fall of the same year he was elected from his, the second district, one of the three county commissioners of Thurston county; and has been re-elected twice since, in the years 1896 and 1899, having now served continuously for his district eight years. In politics he has always been a democrat since first voting, and has been repeatedly a delegate to state and other conventions of the party. In public affairs the general welfare rather than party prejudice has been his guiding principle.

In 1899 for the double purpose of being nearer his public work and of affording his children the better facilities of the graded high school of the county seat, he purchased a residence property in Pender, which he has finely improved, and where he dispenses liberal hospitality.

He sustains the distinction of being the first person of Winnebago descent and among the very first persons of Indian descent to hold an important county office.